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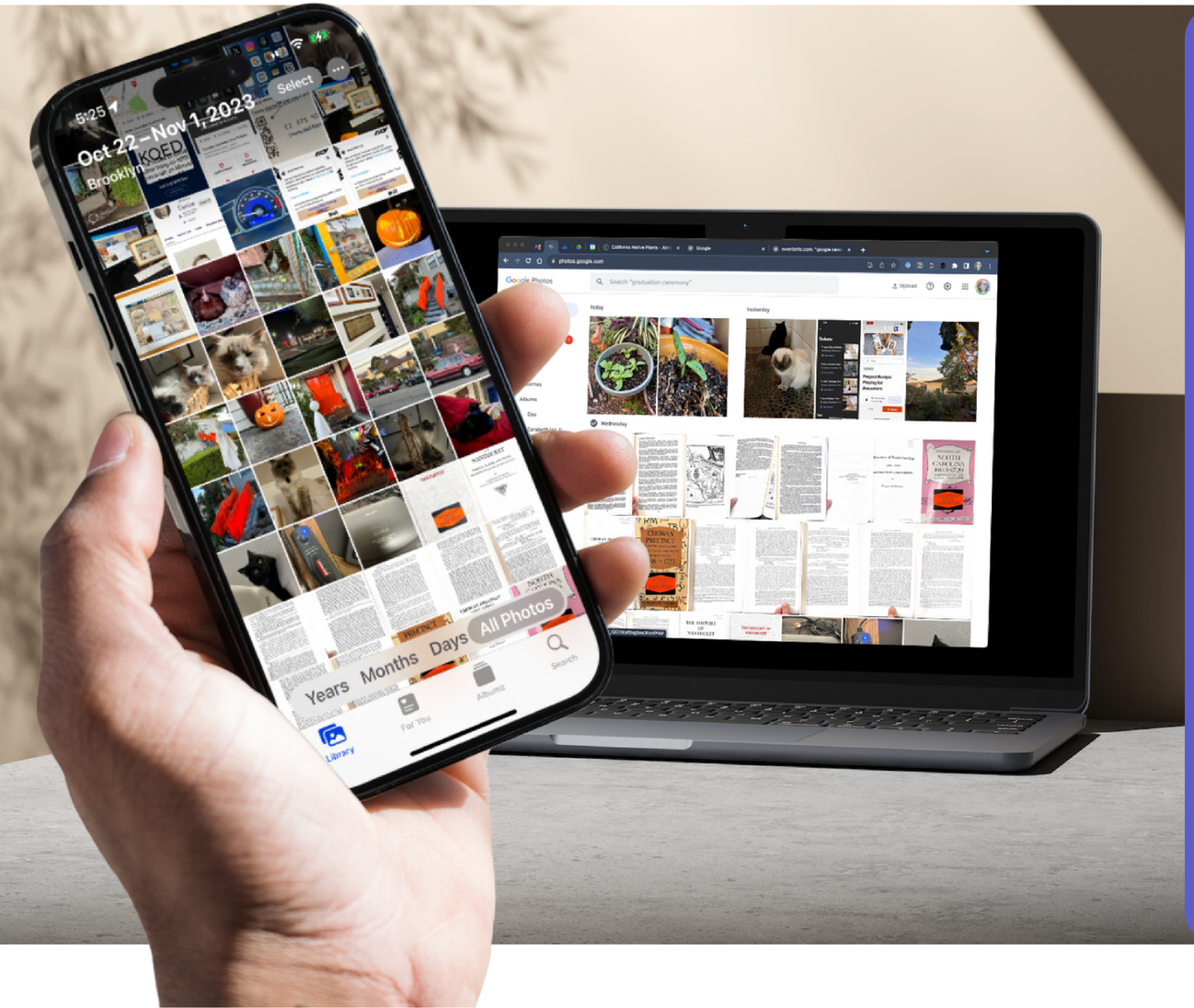
Irregular Topics
November 6, 2023



APPLE PHOTOS

& Family History Projects

…in a world of Windows & MacOS — filled with iPhones.

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Irregular Topics: Apple Photos

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- **High-level view**
  - *Started as “where are my photos on iPhone?”*

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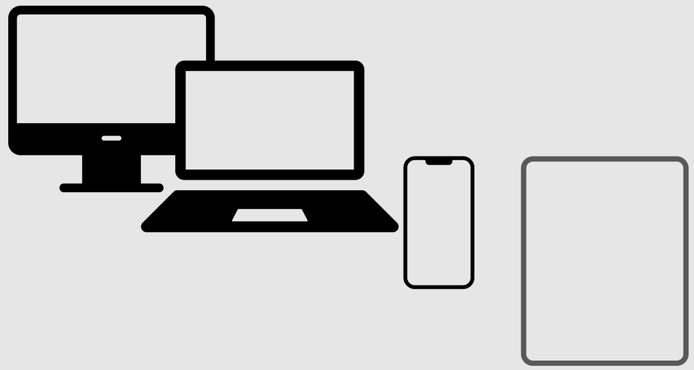
Assumptions: Here's the problem to solve

- Simple elegance of Apple platforms
- Complications of open, hybrid environments



Computers, phones & tablets

- MacOS/Windows
- iOS/Android
- Table of complexity

	Computer	Phone	Tablet
MacOS	☑		
Windows			
iOS		☑	☑
Android			

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Level set: Start with the obvious

- An image **file** is not a **link.**
- In an app or browser, an image could be anything.
- Image file types: Standard & “emerging” standards.
- Resolution matters: High resolution has a price.
- Image modifications are generally “destructive.”

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Flip the tables: Apple's Eye View

- Apple wants iPhone users to become Mac buyers.
- Choosing Apple means accepting non-standard.
- To make it easy can mean hiding the "wiring."
- The internet creates a need to make images shareable.

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Apple eating the competition

- Cooperation with non-Apple devices is part of the strategy.
- iPhones now account for 50% of new smartphones in the US & 20% worldwide.

GUILLEM C

As Smartphone Industry Sputters, the iPhone Expands Its Dominance

By Tripp Mickle September 11, 2023

Apple, which is set to release a new iPhone on Tuesday, has increa

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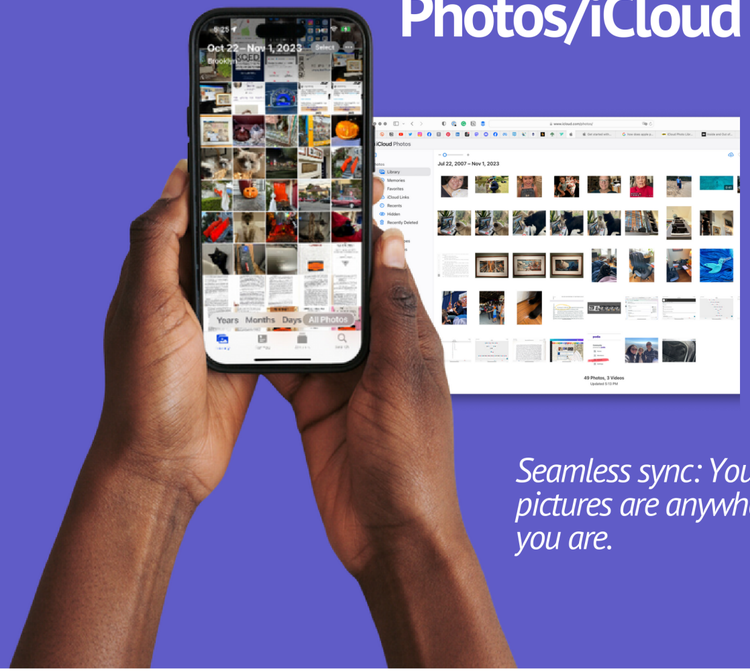
As designed, “Seamlessness” is the goal

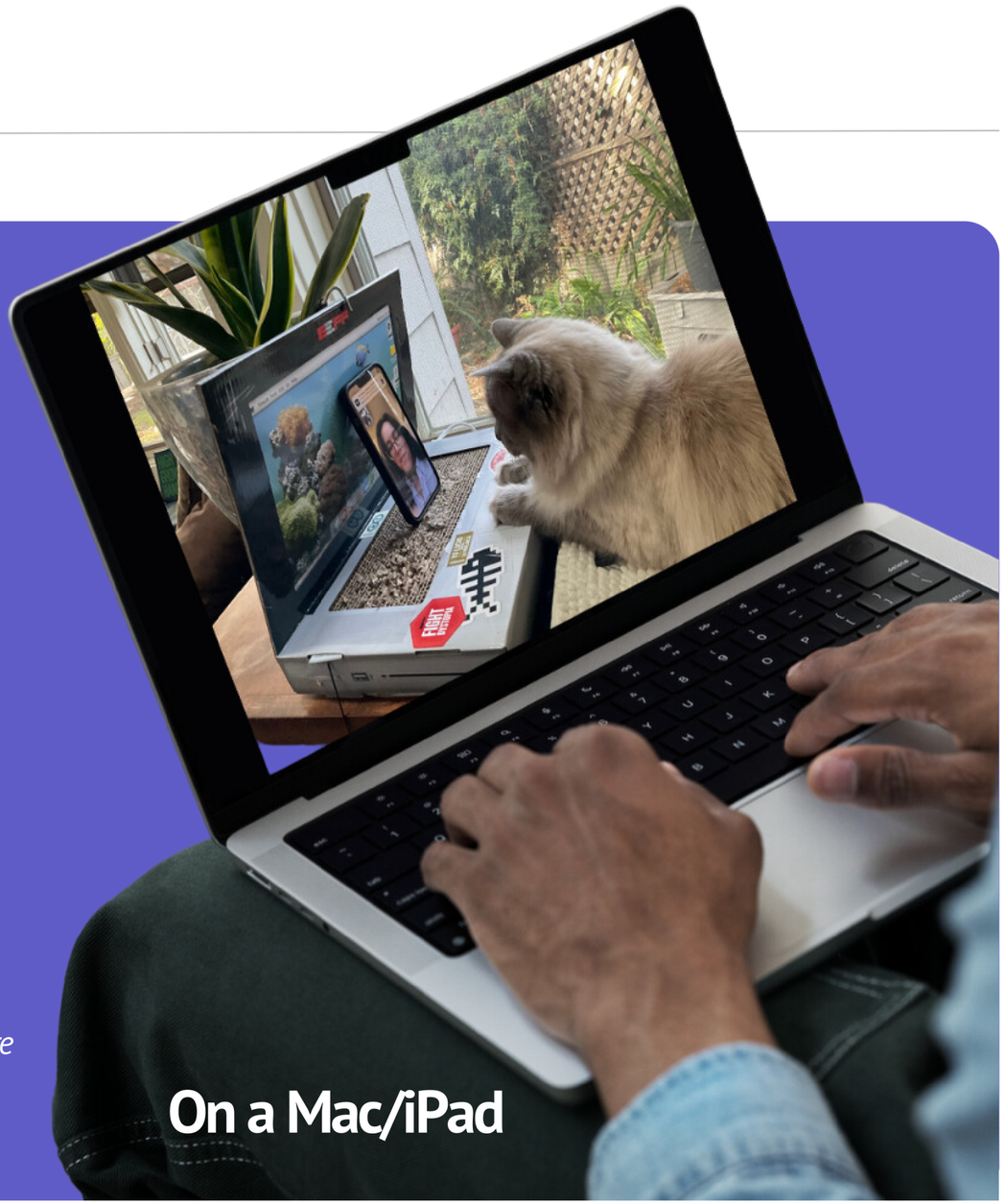
Camera app

Picture engages in the moment

Photos/iCloud



Seamless sync: Your pictures are anywhere you are.



On a Mac/iPad

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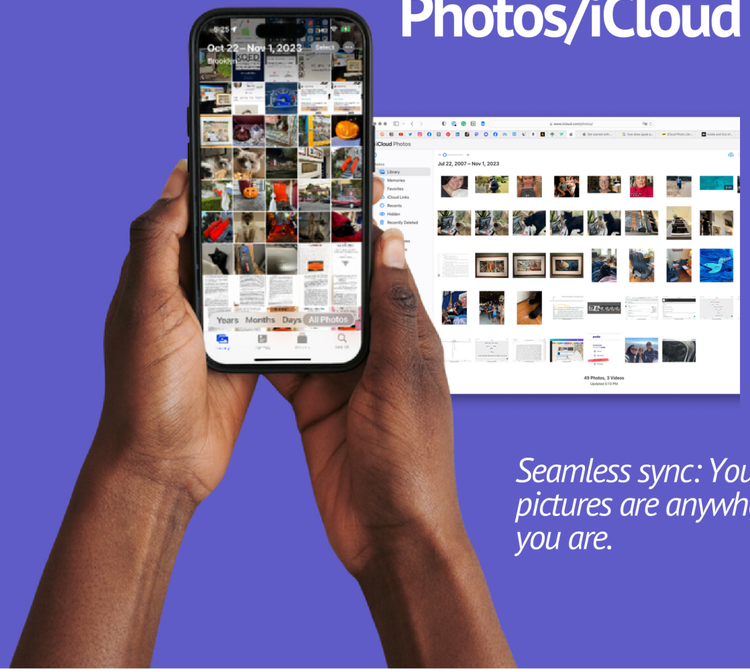
Backstage…

- *It's apps, files, & a database*

Camera app

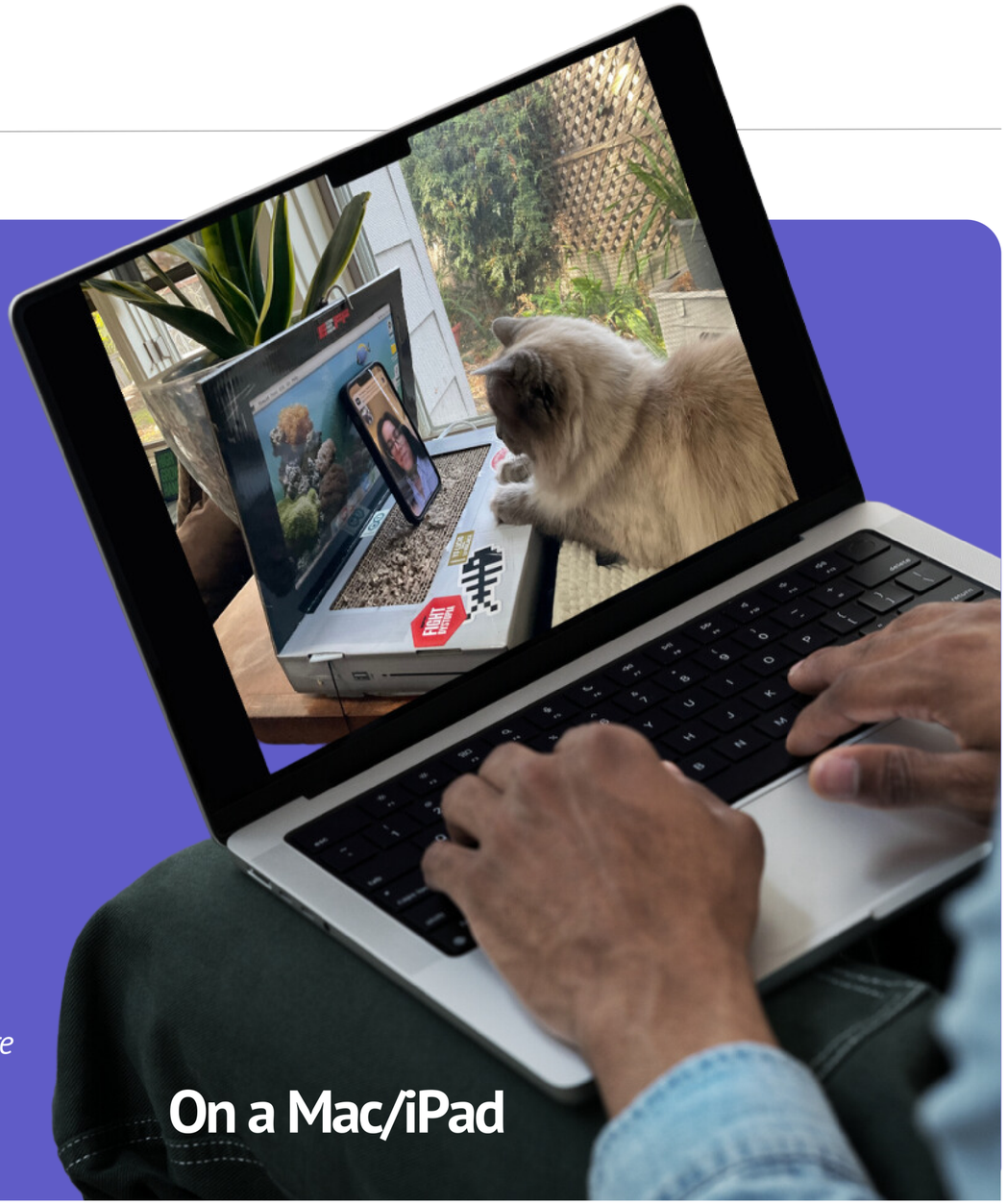
Picture engages in the moment

Photos/iCloud



Seamless sync: Your pictures are anywhere you are.

On a Mac/iPad



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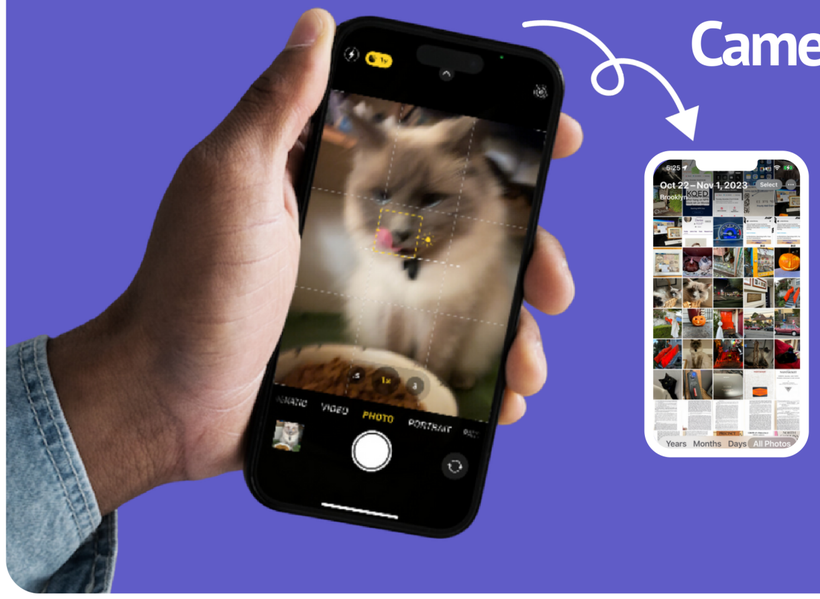
So, to follow your photos, it helps to understand, or intercept, the flow



Camera app takes the picture,

delivers it to the Photos app.

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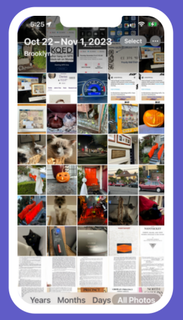
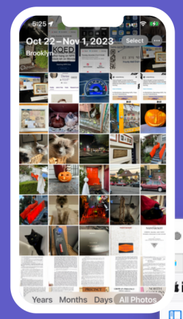
Depending on your Photos app configuration, it may then get synchronized to iCloud *(default)*

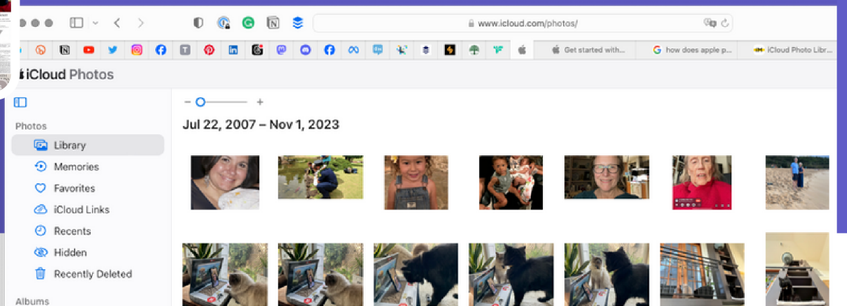


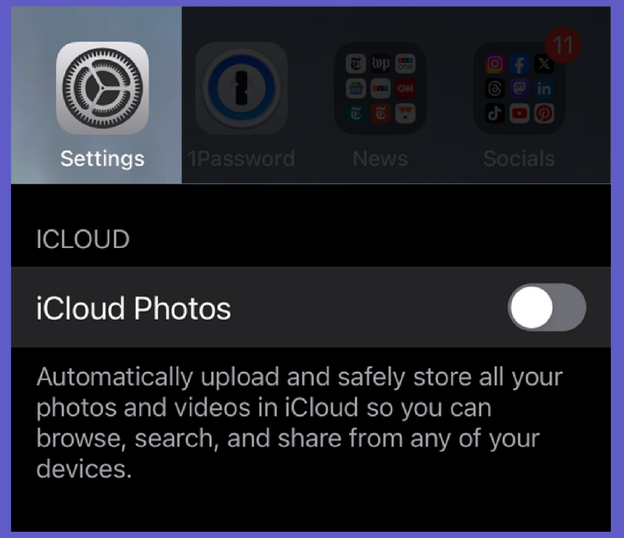
Photos app, in the background…



uploads & stores to iCloud.

Interface on iPhone looks no different. Now accessible on web and other devices.





Enable/disable iCloud Photos

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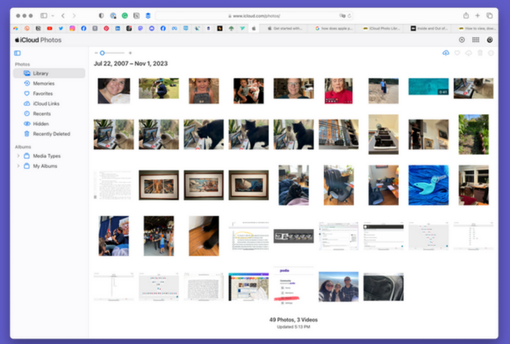
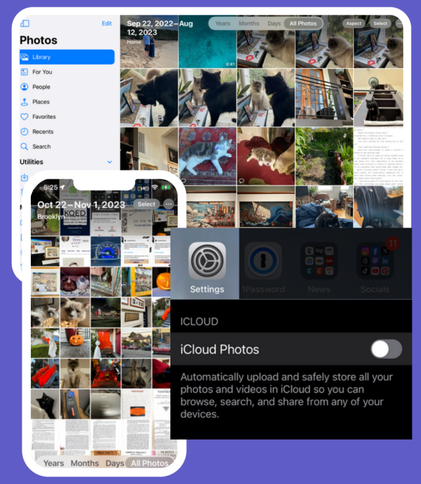
Once in iCloud they can be shared & are accessible everywhere…

Browser window
(icloud.com)



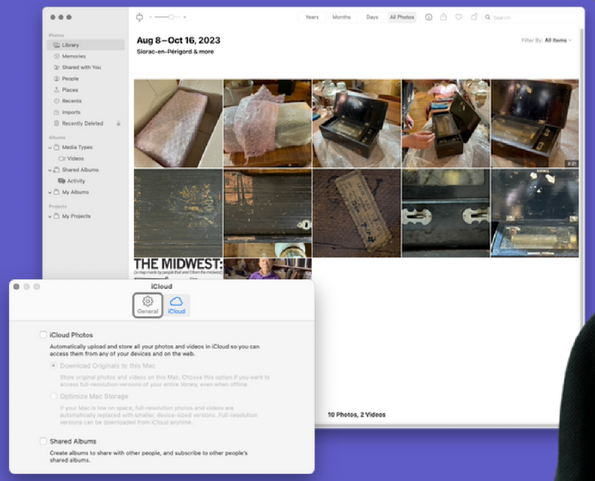
***iCloud** ONLY*

iPhone/iPad app

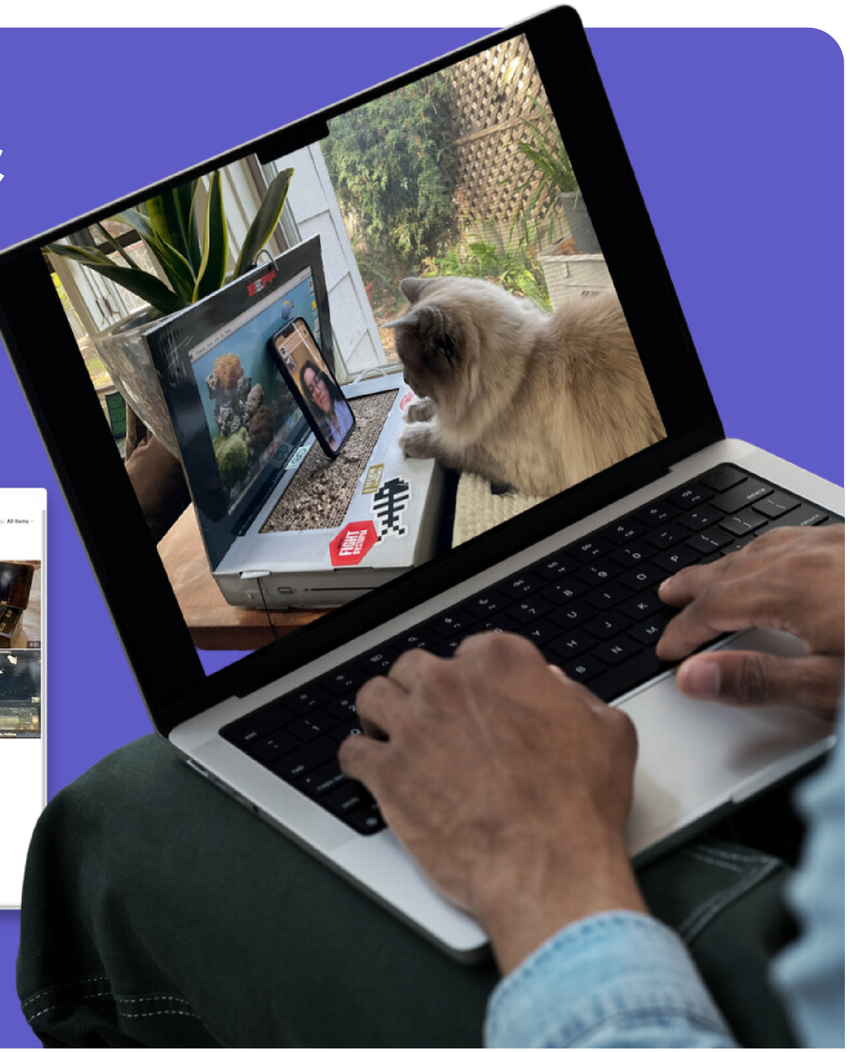


***On device + iCloud** (if enabled)*

MacOS app



***On device + iCloud** (if enabled)*



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That was the easy part.

🔑 Database + Files + Apps

The rest depends …

- Find, backup & archive on Apple Photos
- Get photos out of Apple/iCloud
- Use your photos in projects
- Edit, enhance, and archive

What problem are YOU trying to solve?

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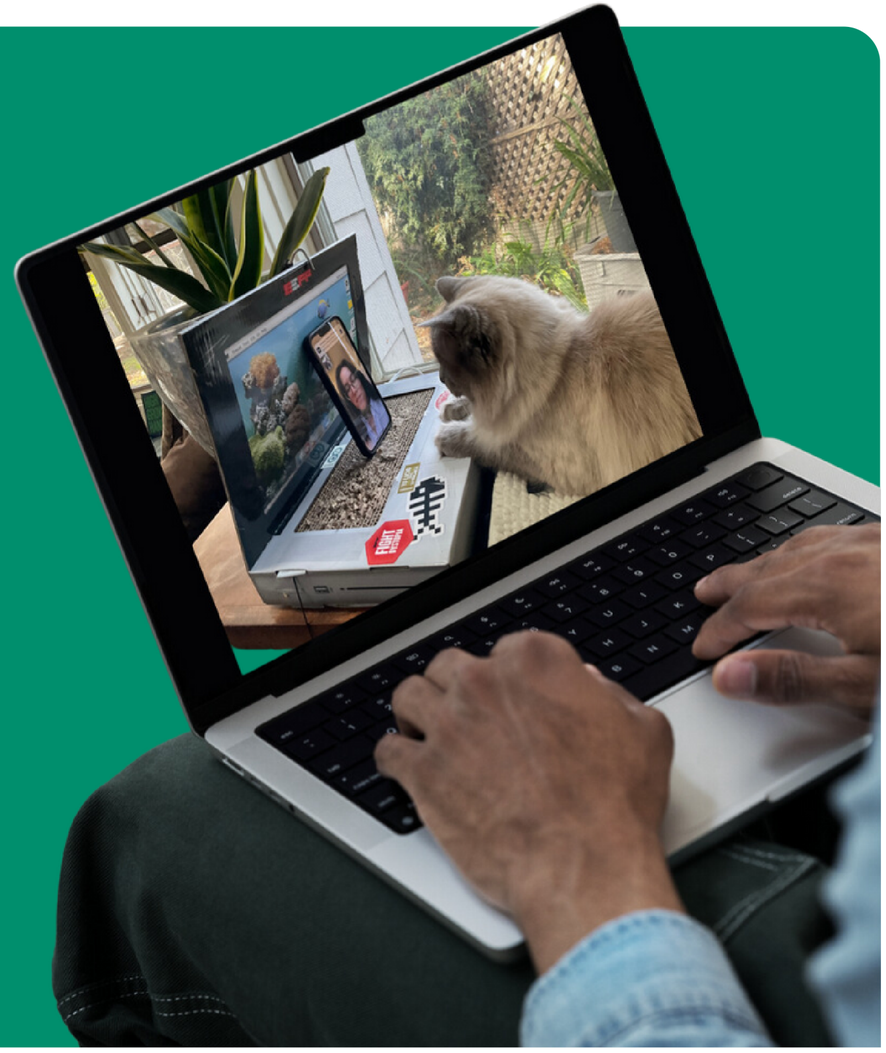
There are better tutors for you on USING Apple photos…



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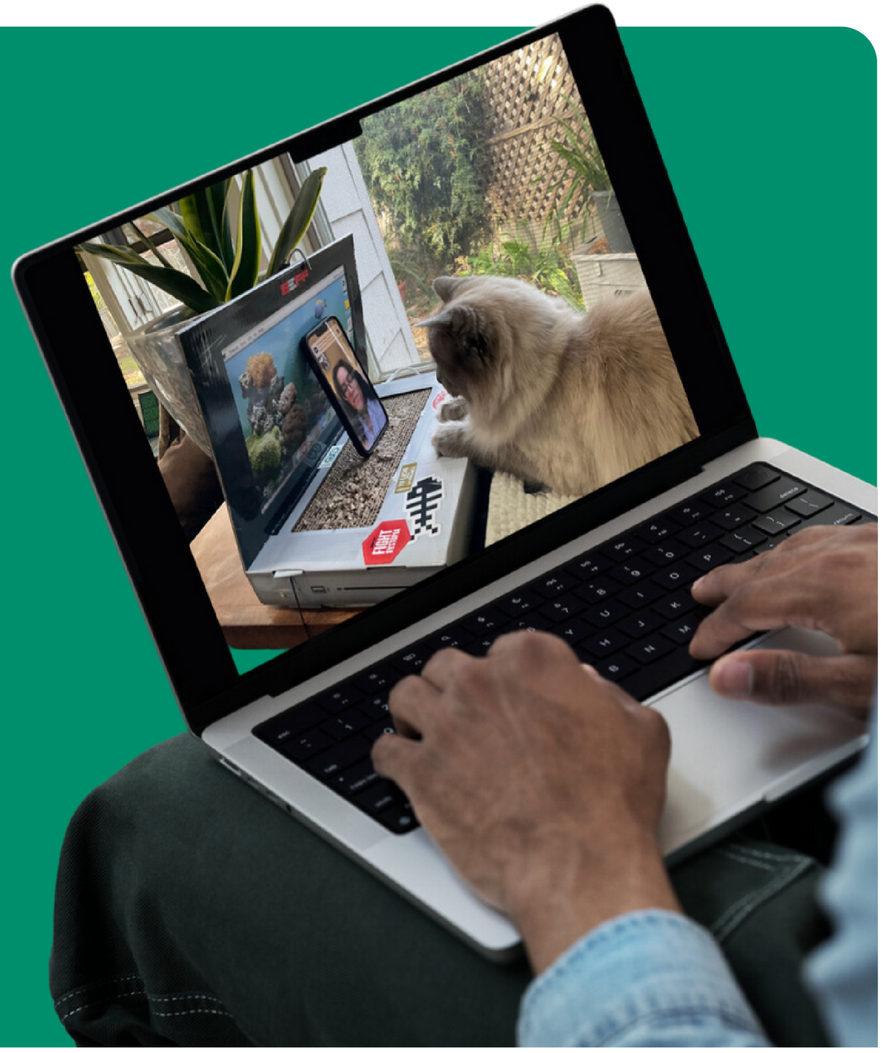
There are better tutors for you on USING Apple photos…

- Apple documentation
  - Get Started Guide: support.apple.com/guide/photos/get-started-pht23b129fed/9.0/mac/14.0
- Professional photo organizers
  - Find a professional organizer/coach pro.thephotomanagers.com (global)
- Apple Bloggers — look for recent articles
  - Rotten Apple "Inside and Out of Apple Photos for Mac"
  - iMore "iCloud Photo Library: The Ultimate Guide"
  - iMore "How to view, download, delete, and share your photos on iCloud.com"
  - Michael Billig (YouTube) "iCloud Photos Explained + How to Use"



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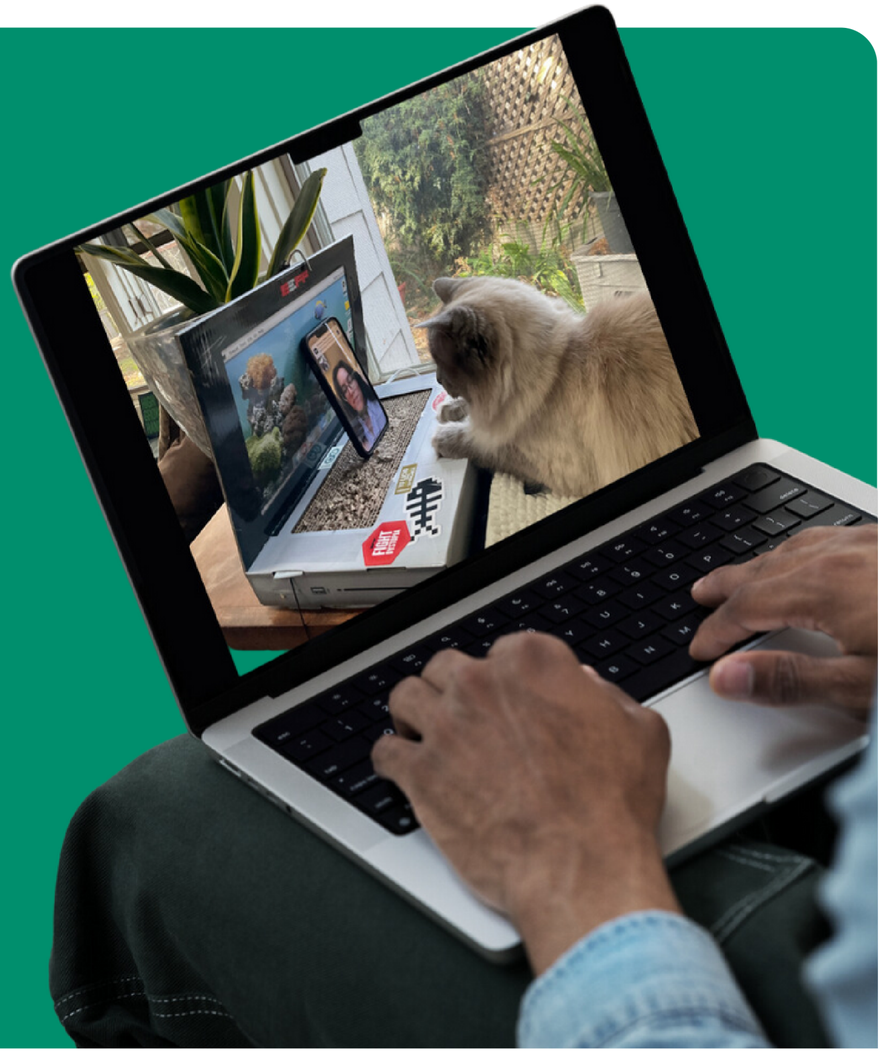
My simple goal: Demystify

- Answer basic questions like “where are my photos” (That’s a good one.)
- Propose a simple, reliable workflow for any of several hybrid environments.
- Understand what questions remain and propose resources.



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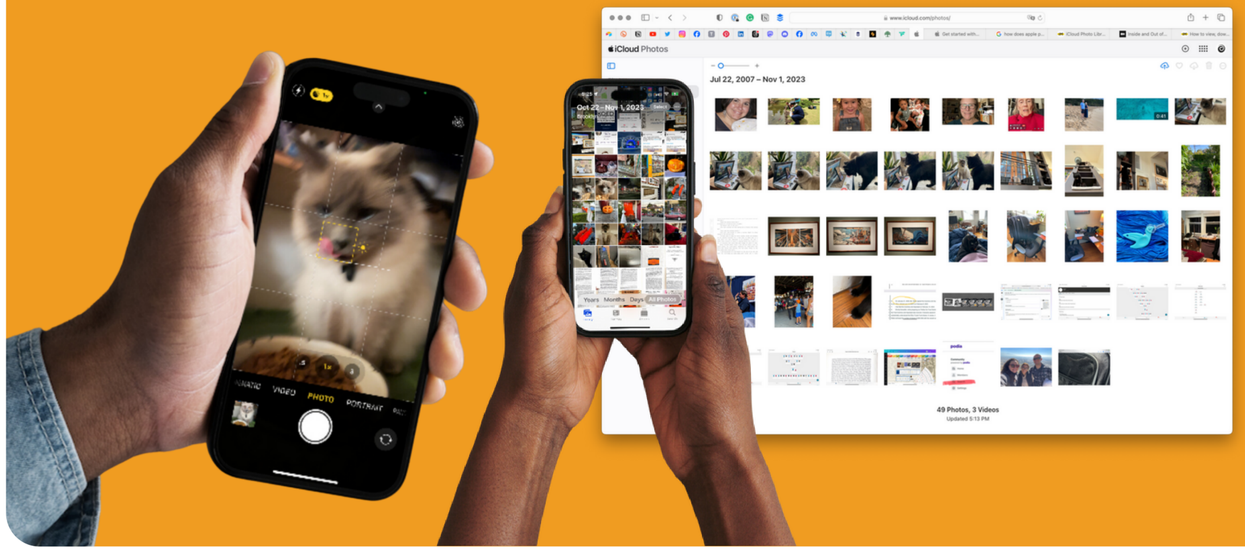
Self interest

iCloud is Apple's brand. Google has it's own*

iCloud is priced about the same as other platforms like Google (👇 based on US). I use both, that created my challenge.



Apple/month *free w/device: 5GB*	**Google/month** *free w/account 15GB*
• **50GB*: $1.99**	• **100GB: $1.99**
• **200GB: $2.99**	• **200GB: $2.99**
• **2TB: $9.99**	• **2TB: $9.99**

*Sept-2023 New iCloud+ adds features

*I've used **Google** as an alternative to iCloud, **Microsoft, Amazon, Forever** are all alternatives as well. My choice was largely driven by my commitment to **Google Docs**.*

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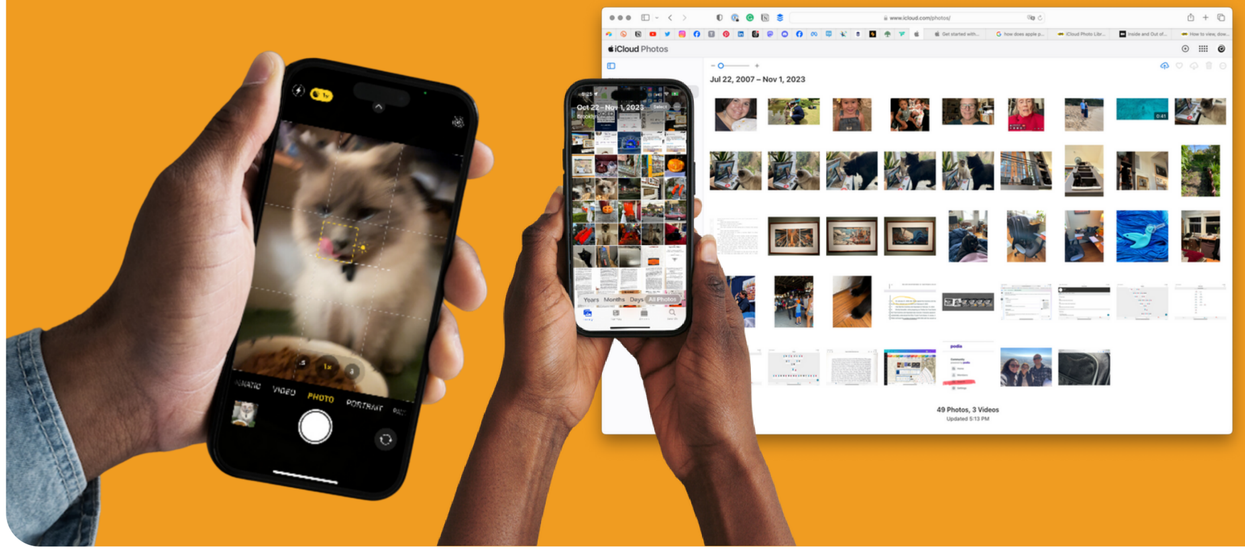
My solution is to use iPhone, and minimize iCloud.

Commiting to one cloud vendor can save you money.



Apple *has me on the quality of the camera and the* ***iPhone****.*

Google *has me on the quality of* ***Google Docs & Gmail****.*

👉*I need* ***BOTH****.*

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Workflow is your friend: Photo "hub," "Archive,"…

- **Many better experts on workflow …**
  - *Part of **Kathy Stone's** series "Kathy's Corner"*
  - ***Caroline Guntur** has excellent courses*
  - ***Ann Larkham** discusses in **Photogenealogy** posts and upcoming book.*
  - ***Professional photo managers** offer support as a personal, local service.*

Caroline Guntur's course: DPOpro.co

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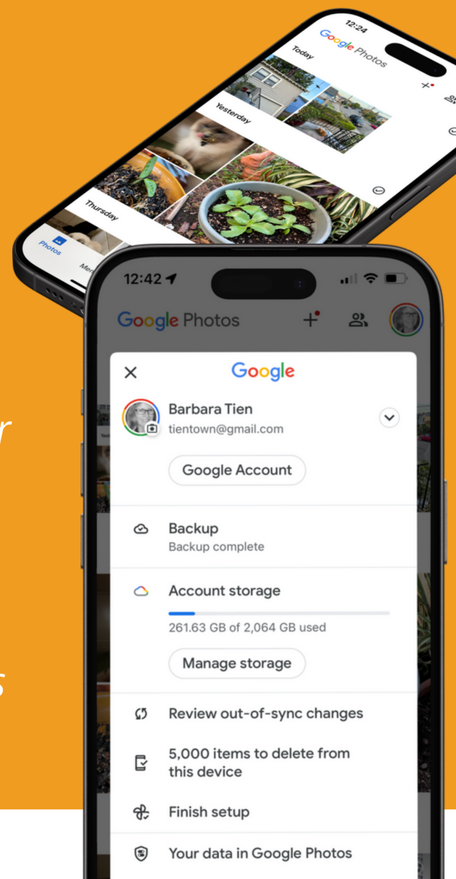
The iPhone is just a piece of MY workflow:

- **For ordinary photos** *(not scans)*

1. **TAKE** photos on my iPhone

- *iCloud **DISABLED** on Photos app*
- *Get **PHOTOS OFF** my phone ASAP.*
- ***PAY $1.99/mo** to Apple to ensure never run into storage issue.*
- *Use Apple photos as a bridge for quick image copy/paste to my Mac.*
- *I don't depend on special Apple features (e.g. live photos)*



2. **VIEW** in **Google Photo** app

- *Google Photos copies, then DELETES Apple Photos*
- *Keep all photos in Google as FULL Resolution — 225GB is tiny in 2TB plan.*
- *Use some Google features for Facial organization*
- *Defer editing, organization & metadata to ACDC (next step)*

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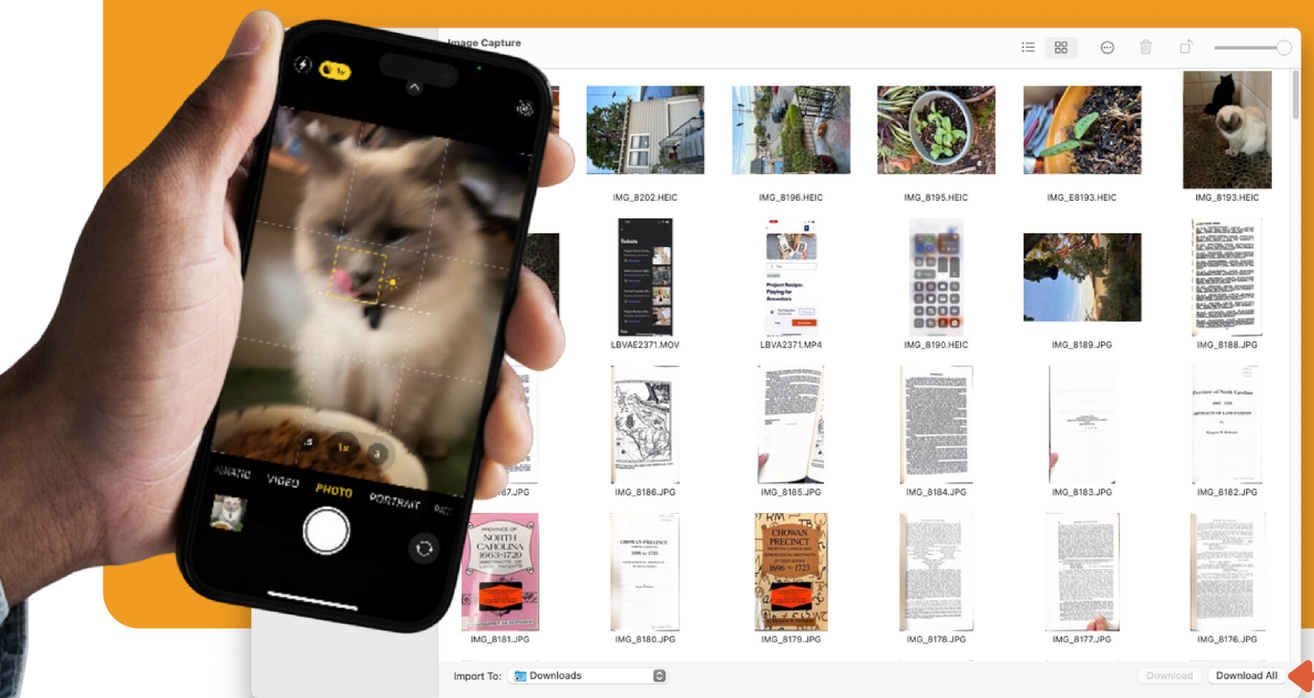
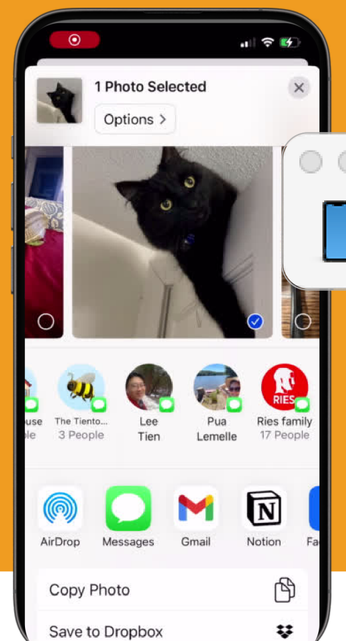
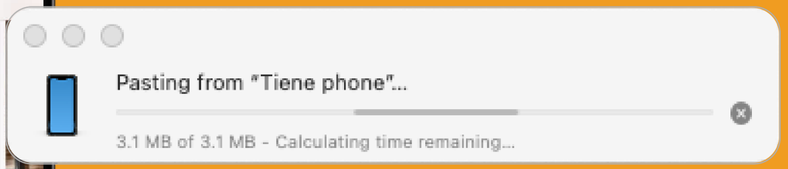
Focus on the iPhone portion of the workflow…

Special cases to preserve Apple features:

- *Image capture (Mac) works when cabled.*
- *Copy/paste (Mac)*
  - *From the share button, select "Copy" then …*
  - *On Mac, simply "Paste"*







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Apple features & formats

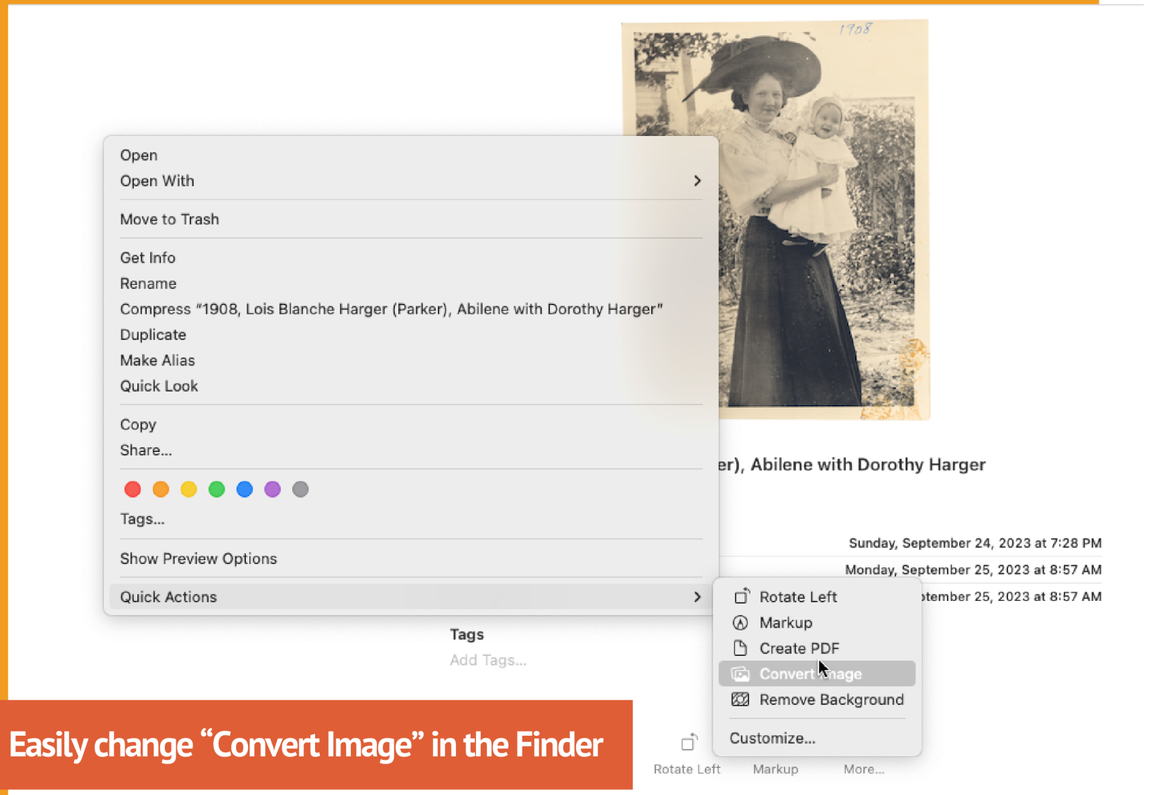
- **Apple Camera, image processing & features**

  Recent advances added HEIC/HEIF format plus…:

  - Live text (copy)
  - QR codes (not new, TBH)
  - Translation (nice!)
  - Data Scanner (like Google Lens)

  2023 Apple Visionkit features for developers:

  - Subject Lifting (“Stickers” now works well in iOS 17)



Easily change “Convert Image” in the Finder

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- **High-level view: Don’t worry**
  - *Your files ARE there, workflow can protect you.*
  - *Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.*
- **Resources**
  - *If the technical details are worrisome, bring in pros.*
  - *Learn & apply to your own work style.*
  - *Consistency in your workflow is as important as your backup solution.*
- **Discussion?**
  - *Best practices for archiving, backups & sync — using Google Photos & SSD local drives.*

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THANK YOU

More questions & comments welcome in the Forum.
Recording available with a couple of hours in the **Event Archives**.

You can always reach me at
projectkin.org@**gmail**.com

Event Archives link